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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Y1. NATIONAL PARK

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FILE No. 143

MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

JANUARY, 1924.

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JANUARY, 1924

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February 2, 1934.

Dear Sir:

The following is my report on conditions in the Yellowstone National Park and on the operation of the park for the month of January, 1934:

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Sleighbing operations have been conducted on regular schedules between Gardiner and Cooke City and have consisted of weekly mail deliveries and a limited amount of freighting. Passenger cars and trucks have had good going throughout the month between Gardiner and Mammoth. The sleighbing schedules of the Transportation Company between Mammoth and Lake Hotel have been regularly maintained and travel conditions are good except at points between Mammoth and Norris where travel is difficult because of a lack of snow. This condition occurs on Swan Lake Flat and also north from Norris for a distance of about five miles. All other park roads are closed to travel. However, sleighs could probably get through to Upper Basin or Riverside without great difficulty in case of necessity.

Weather

The following records are quoted from the report for January of the Observer in charge of the local United States Weather Bureau at Mammoth Hot Springs, Park Headquarters:

Temperature: Monthly mean, 16.2° , is 1.4° below normal. The unusually severe cold wave that was in progress at the close of the year, continued with decreased intensity, during the first five days of January. Another cold period, but of moderate intensity, extended from the 12th to the 20th inclusive, while the remainder of the month was moderately warm. The lowest temperature was 17° below zero on the 4th, and the highest was 40° on the 31st.

Precipitation: Total, 0.80 inch, is 1.44 inches below normal.

Snowfall: Total 8.8 inches; normal 20.0 inches. Snow, mostly light, was of daily occurrence from the 8th to the 21st inclusive. Some light snow also fell at the beginning of the month. The greatest depth on the ground was 16.3 inches on the 19th, but under the influence of warmer weather it settled to 12.8 inches by the close of the month.

Wind: Average hourly velocity, 8.2 miles; Normal 9.2. Only three times in the past 20 years has a lighter wind movement been recorded in January.

Sunshine: Percentage of possible 45; normal 39.

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Snow depths: Rangers on stations report the following snow depths at the close of the month. Snow depths of January 31st, 1923, are also given for purposes of comparison:

<u>Station</u>	<u>1923</u> <u>Inches</u>	<u>1924</u> <u>Inches</u>
Mammoth	21	12.8
Riverside	37	28
Gallatin	24.5	23
Norris	30	22
Slough Creek	28	18
Bechler	62	45
Snake River	42	40
Thumb	--	23
Lake	31	22
Upper Yellowstone	--	42
Canyon	32	26
Tower Falls	13	16
Buffalo Ranch	12	14
Soda Butte Station	--	22
Hellroaring	14	16
Sylvan Pass	30	16
Two Ocean Pass	--	6 ft.

Moderate weather conditions have prevailed throughout the park during the month. Snowfall has been light and decreasing snow depths have been reported from all stations.

Travel

No visitors were registered at any of the park entrances during the month.

On January 1 there were 68 appointees on the payrolls, and on January 31st there were 69. The following list shows the number of appointees of various classes serving during the month, with a general statement of the kind of work in which they were engaged:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of Work Performed</u>
1	Superintendent	General administration and supervision of all activities in the park.
1	Asst. Superintendent	Administration, purchasing, disbursing.
2	Asst. Engineers	1 in charge of engineering work in park, 1 assisting.
5	Clerks	1 Financial Clerk; 1 Cost Accounting Clerk; 1 Personnel and File Clerk; 1 Clerk on orders, proposals and vouchers, also handling time and payroll work; 1 stenographer-typist on stenographic work for Superintendent.
3	Electricians	Operated power plant regular shift, including Sundays, road motors, did necessary line work.
3	Foremen	1 in charge of headquarters corral and freighting work about headquarters; one on road and construction work; one repairing sprinkler and dump wagons.
1	Telegrapher	Sent and received all Government Western Union messages, operated one shift on telephone switchboard.
2	Telephone Switchboard Operators.	Operated telephone switchboard daily shifts, including Sunday.
1	Master Mechanic	In charge of shops and of repair to heavy road machinery.
2	Blacksmiths	General blacksmith work, including shoeing of horses in shop, overhauling and repairing tools and equipment.
1	Machinist	Repairing equipment.
1	Master Painter	General shop work, including painting equipment and buildings.
1	Master Plumber	In charge of general plumbing and water and sewer systems.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of Work Performed</u>
1	Auto Mechanic	On duty in power plant.
1	Carpenter	Repairing buildings at headquarters.
5	Laborers	Teaming, freighting, assisting mechanics and miscellaneous work at headquarters.
1	Steward and Master of Transportation	In charge of all transportation and of storerooms.
1	Chief Buffalo Keeper	In charge of tame buffalo herd.
2	Assistant Buffalo Keepers	One in charge of hay ranch operations at Slough Creek (on L.W.O.P. commencing January 31st); one assisting.
1	Buffalo Herder	Assisting Buffalo Keeper.
1	Park Naturalist	Scientific research work and developing museum; e.o.d. Jan. 14, 1924.
1	Chief Park Ranger	In charge of ranger force.
1	First Asst. Chief Park Ranger	In charge of Northern District.
1	Asst. Chief Park Ranger	On duty at Lake District.
21	Park Rangers (15 WAE)	Patrolling, protection of game, miscellaneous duties.
7	Temporary Park Rangers	Patrolling, miscellaneous duties.

Leaves of Absence

Andrew R. Edwin, Clerk, January 1-5, 4 days.
Forest L. Carter, Park Ranger, January 1-16, 15 days.
Clifford Anderson, Park Ranger, January 1-19, 16 days.
Deane T. White, Foreman, January 1-10, 8 days.
Earl Bowman, Park Ranger, January 1-5, 4 days.
Norman A. Herison, Park Ranger, January 1-8, 6 days.
Charlie Stinnott, Blacksmith, January 1-3 (noon), 1-1/2 days.
William Wiggins, Master Plumber, January 10-12, 3 days.
Warren Hutchings, Asst. Buffalo Keeper, January 18-30, 11 days.
Anna E. Madsen, Clerk, January 5 (noon), 1/2 day.

Joseph Joffe, Clerk, January 13-14, 2 days.
 Lucy Bilkert, Clerk, January 5 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Lucy Bilkert, Clerk, January 12, 1 day.
 Peter E. Bilkert, Clerk, January 11-14, 3 days.
 Arthur W. Burney, Assistant Engineer, January 14-19, 6 days.
 William I. Davis, Assistant Engineer, January 12-15 (noon), 3-1/2 days.
 Harlie Hodgins, Park Ranger, January 25-26, 2 days.
 Lucy Bilkert, Clerk, January 22 (noon), 1/2 day.
 C. W. Enochs, Foreman, January 31, 1 day.
 Harry McFarland, January 29-31, 3 days.

Sick Leave

Sam T. Woodring, Chief Ranger, January 21-31, 11 days.

Leave Without Pay

Deate T. White, Foreman, January 11-19, inc.
 Warren Hutchings, Assistant Buffalo Keeper, January 31.
 Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, January 1-31.

Appointments

Edmund J. Sawyer, Park Naturalist, \$1500 and quarters; e.o.d. Jan. 14, 1924.

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In addition to the regular employees listed above under appointment, the following were employed temporarily by the day:

	<u>January 1st</u>	<u>January 31st</u>
Skilled laborers	1	1
Laborers	2	2
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Employed part time as Laborer	1	1
Total Laborers.....	4	4
Appointees.....	68	69
Total	<u>72</u>	<u>73</u>

III. WORK COMPLETED.

(a) Construction of Physical Improvements:

No outside work was done by the Engineering Department during the month of January.

(c) Miscellaneous Improvement Work:

The maps of all leases to park operators, numbering 42 in all, were completed and tracings made. Descriptions of all leases were also made, and the whole sent to the Washington Office for approval.

IV. WORK IN PROGRESS.

(a) Construction of Physical Improvements

Yellowstone Park Hotel Company:

Lake Hotel: The work on the additions to the kitchen and dining room is nearing completion. All plastering in connection with the kitchen will be completed within the next few days, at which time the plastering of the dining room will begin. The laying of the kitchen floor is yet to be done, also the floor in the additions to the engine room; the latter will not be completed until spring.

Substantial progress has been made by the caretaker in the work of rewiring the old rooms. There has been no reduction in the crews since the holidays and the plans at present contemplate continuing with the work until March 1st.

Mammoth Hotel: The work on the addition to Mammoth Hotel was practically suspended during the month. However, one man was employed throughout the month doing patchwork on the floors and other miscellaneous jobs about the new kitchen.

Yellowstone Park Transportation Company:

There was no new construction during the month.

A crew of 55 men has been continuously employed since the holidays (beginning January 3rd) with the routine winter work of repairing and overhauling cars and trucks.

Yellowstone Park Camps Company:

The Camps Company reports no activity except that a crew of nine men are working at Mammoth Camp. Six men are employed at furniture making and three are engaged in truck repairing.

(c) Miscellaneous Improvement Work

The Master Painter did miscellaneous work about buildings. The walls at Mr. Edwin's quarters were kalsomined and the floors varnished. The woodwork was painted and floors grained at Bicket's quarters. Two rooms were papered at Wiggins' quarters. One sprinkler truck was also painted. Work on the hospital was started.

The Master Mechanic and his assistants repaired and overhauled 5 trucks and one Ford. The Master Mechanic cut out wood and fitted it for 5 truck bodies; also prepared irons for 5 truck bodies. The Blacksmith mounted 4 sprinkler tanks on trucks and shod horses.

The Carpenter built a storm shed and coal shed at Robinson's quarters and repaired houses along upper line.

The Steward and Master of Transportation supervised the hauling and storage of forage, freight, etc.; hauled ice from ice pond to ice house, a distance of about 3/4 mile. Two drivers were employed 3 days at this work. Worked in storehouse inventorying property, sorting tools for repairs, making new memorandum receipts, and making copies of Department inventories for office.

The Master Plumber and his assistants worked the greater part of the month (26 days) at the garage installing a heating system; maintained water and sewer systems at Mammoth (headquarters).

The Telephone System and Power Plant were operated in the usual manner. The Power Plant was run constantly with the results shown in comparison for January 1923, as follows:

	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>
Total current generated, in KWH	29,390	38,260
Of this, sold to public utilities	1,313	3,141
at 5¢ per KWH		
Consumed for street lighting	2,177	1,720
Balance, consumed in Government		
buildings, for power and lighting,		
lost on lines in transit	25,900	33,399
Peak load during month in KWH	62	112

The Telephone and Switchboard Office was open daily from 7:30 A.M. to 8:45 P.M. The total business handled was as follows:

Switchboard Calls

On Government local lines.....	2225
On Hotel Company lines.....	359
On Long Distance connections.....	84
Total	2568

Telegrams

Government sent.....	71
Commercial sent.....	19
	90

Government received.....	35
Commercial received.....	18
Total	53

Office Force

The office force was busy with usual routine work which includes orders, payment of vouchers, preparation of accounts, reports, general correspondence, etc. 711 pieces of official mail were received and 793 were sent out during the month.

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The complete physical inventory taken of Government materials in the various departments, as of January 1, 1924, resulted as follows:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INVENTORIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1922 & DECEMBER 31, 1923.

DEPT.	SECTION	SECTION TOTAL 1922	SECTION TOTAL 1923	DEPARTMENT TOTAL 1922	DEPARTMENT TOTAL 1923
Storehouse:	Provisions, etc.	\$ 3,143.04	\$ 3,182.10		
Storehouse:	Supplies & Materials	37,664.86	34,059.12	\$40,807.50	\$ 57,241.22
Plumbing	Supplies-Materials	10,191.17	6,735.41		
Plumbing	Army Range Parts	408.35	390.55	10,599.52	7,125.96
Electrical	Supplies-Materials	4,908.35	3,731.20	4,908.35	3,731.20
Painting	Supplies-Materials	3,134.67	3,279.69	3,134.67	3,279.69
Shops	Blacksmith	2,484.54	3,590.63		
Shops	Motorcycle	383.15	369.03		
Shops	Garage	2,156.47	1,472.00		
Shops	Grader parts	512.06	327.72		
Shops	Gravel Loader parts	236.45	234.20	5,773.47	5,993.58
Stables	Supplies-Materials	1,781.28	383.70	1,781.28	383.70
GRAND TOTALS.....				\$ 67,005.19	\$ 67,755.35
TOTAL 1923 INVENTORY REDUCED FROM 1922.....					9,349.84
				<u>\$ 67,005.19</u>	<u>\$ 67,005.19</u>

Value of equipment not included in above.

Ranger Patrols and Activities

The regular patrols have been made from all stations. All routine work has been accomplished and conditions throughout the park are good. All patrols, except in parts of the north district, have been made on skis or snowshoes. Mounted patrols are now being regularly made on the Slough Creek, Hellroaring and Lamar River districts. Diminishing snow depths and mild temperatures have caused unfavorable sliding conditions during the last ten days.

There were no special patrols of importance during the month. The regular patrol of Rangers Dunrud and Hodgins to the Upper Yellowstone is given special mention because of the large numbers of moose seen on the trip and because of their observations and report on conditions in the regions adjacent to the south boundary, the details of which will be noted under the proper subheadings. Ranger Hodgins saw the first wolf of the season. It appeared in the vicinity of Bridger Lake.

Rangers Finch and Ogston have recently returned from their regular patrol to Cold Creek and Miller Creek which is specially mentioned by reason of their having located a stray band of tame buffalo numbering 27, which have since been returned to the buffalo ranch. They also counted 14 sheep on Arapithatre Mountain and reported the first signs of mountain lions that have been observed during the season. The track was seen on this side of Miller Creek and moved out in the direction of Muir Plateau.

Telephone communications have been maintained throughout the greater part of the month. We have had some difficulty due to crossed wires and have also had three or four breaks in the line, all of which were located by special patrols, and at this time we are in touch with all stations.

Chief Ranger Woodring has been suffering from a severe attack of tonsillitis and La Grippe during the past ten days, and First Assistant Chief Ranger Trischman has been actively in charge of the work pending his recovery.

Assistant Chief Ranger Douglas is on a tour of inspection of the south district.

Applications for appointment to the temporary ranger positions for the season of 1934 have been frequently received throughout the fall and winter season. All applicants have been promptly advised that a questionnaire and form letter advising as to the duties and requirements of the position would be mailed them during the month of January, which was done on January 13th. These forms have since been regularly mailed to all subsequent applicants. Inquiries have also been mailed to 26 of the temporary rangers of last season. These men have all demonstrated their qualifications for the work and have previously indicated their desire to return; our inquiry asks for a prompt and definite statement as to their availability for appointment. A tentative list of the 1934 ranger force will be prepared at an early date and submitted to Mr. Albright.

VII. POLICIES:

There were no changes in policy during the month.

VIII. COST OF OPERATION:

The cost of operating the park for the month of January, 1924, will be shown on the monthly Cost Accounting Report which will go forward as soon as prepared.

IX. OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST:

Wild Animals

Game Conditions: Game conditions are good, forage is adequate, temperatures are mild, and snow depths are diminishing. The game is well conditioned and is still quite widely scattered. No winter kills have been observed to date and only a very limited number of kills from other causes.

Elk: The main body of the Yellowstone herd continues on Hellroaring, Slough Creek and the Lamar River Flats. There is a band of 400 at Tower Falls, 800 at Blacktail, 350 on Antelope Creek, 225 on Mount Everts and 400 on Sepulchre. There has been no substantial increase in the total counts as indicated in the report of last month. A portion of the herd from Mount Everts has moved down beyond the park limits. This movement occurred on the night of the 17th and 18th when a band of 150 moved down along the east side of the Gardiner River and crossed the stream at its mouth and proceeded from that point on down the valley. A second band of approximately 100 has since left the park by the same route; fully one-half of the above total have since returned. A limited number, not exceeding 200, have passed out on the buffalo flats between Gardiner and Jardine. It is considered that they will gradually move back to the main herd, and no effort to drive them back is contemplated except should it become necessary for their protection or for the protection of the ranchers in the lower valley. No complaints have been received to date.

Counts on the Gallatin herd now total 3,000. They have moved down beyond the park limits and are concentrated on the game preserve east of the park boundary. Kills during the month from various causes are reported as follows:

1 cow elk stabbed to death on the fence at Gardiner. She had passed out with one of the bands above noted and attempted to return by leaping the fence. A small section of the fence at this particular point had not been capped with pipe and she was stabbed to death on the projecting spikes. This section has since been capped with some old 2 by 6 lumber completing the protective measures previously taken throughout the length of the fence.

1 cow elk apparently dead from old age at Lower Slough Creek.

1 calf broke its neck in the fence at Lower Slough Creek.

1 cow elk dead from natural causes back of Haynes barns at Mammoth.

Antelope: The antelope range is patrolled daily, and daily reports are had as to numbers seen, location and movements of the various bands and their condition. Several bands ranging from 10 to 50 are seen daily on Mount Everts and Sepulchre. Other and larger herds are regularly seen on the flats below Gardiner. One band varying in numbers from 130 to 194 frequents the Sherman and Stoll pastures and the farthest point to which they have moved to date is to the house on the Sherman ranch. There has been no additions to the total count of 325 indicated in the report of last month. The herd is in fine condition.

1 antelope was killed by coyotes during the month. The killing occurred back of the horse pasture on Sepulchre Mountain.

Deer: The deer are in good condition. Chief Ranger Woodring counted 150 on his patrol of the 16th. They were mostly in small bands on the north slope of Mount Everts and on the foothills of Sepulchre Mountain between Gardiner and Mammoth. The herd which frequents the grounds at Mammoth is not quite as well conditioned as the others for the reason that they subsist mostly on handouts and do very little rustling for forage. It will probably be necessary to ration them with hay a little later on. No kills by coyotes or winter kills have been observed to date.

Mountain Sheep: Rangers Finch and Ogston have recently counted 14 sheep on Amphitheatre Mountain which comprises the only addition to the counts submitted in the report of last month. The numbers and locations indicated at that time covers the situation at this writing plus the addition above noted. The total count to date is 135. Repeated efforts to get a full count of the sheep have not been successful by reason of their being so widely scattered and in some localities unapproachable. Considerable numbers are known to be well back in the more remote sheep districts and it is not likely that they will appear on the lower ranges as long as the present mild weather conditions obtain.

Wild Buffalo: Signs of wild buffalo were seen along Cold Creek and Pelican Creek by rangers on patrol but no buffalo were seen. They have managed to keep well out of sight and the limited numbers thus far reported were in excellent condition. There is good reason to consider that the entire herd is in good shape, as forage is ample and snow depths are considerably below normal.

Tame Buffalo Herd: Doctor McDonald of the Bureau of Animal Industry arrived from Helena, Mont., on the 4th. He was accompanied by Assistant Chief Ranger Trischman to the Buffalo Ranch. At that time the calves which numbered 101 were segregated from the main herd. 16 calves were castrated out of a total of 50. There were 51 females. The total of the tame herd at that time was 633. This total has since been increased by 27, Rangers Finch and Ogston having recently observed a stray band of that number during their patrol on Miller Creek. This band has since been moved down to the ranch and increases the herd total to 660. The entire herd is in good condition. The weaning and feeding of calves was begun on the 7th, and feeding of the main herd was started on the 20th.

Moose: Our best report for moose for the season has come from the Upper Yellowstone. This report gives a total of 74 observed on the trip, and of this total 25 were seen on Thorofare, 27 on the Upper Yellowstone south of the park boundary, 12 on Atlantic Creek and 10 between Lake and Cabin Creek. They were all in fine condition. There are also moose, as previously reported, on the Gallatin, Tower Falls, Sylvan Pass and Bechler and along the north boundary (Upper Slough Creek).

Predatory Animals: 139 coyotes have been killed this season. Of this total 53 were killed prior to December 1st, 22 were killed in December and 64 were killed during the month of January. The kills for January were quite satisfactory despite the unfavorable weather conditions for hunting and trapping. The kills as indicated by districts are as follows:

Lamar River Flats	8
Tower Falls District	14
Mammoth District	7
Slough Creek	8
Gardiner District	9
Hellroaring	10
Blacktail	7
Riverside	1
Total	<u>64</u>

A timber wolf was seen by Ranger Hodgins near Bridge Lake. Wolf signs have been very rare this season and Ranger Hodgins reports the first wolf actually seen.

The first signs of mountain lions reported for the season were observed by Rangers Finch and Ogston on Miller Creek. The track led off in the direction of Muir Plateau.

Game Feeding: Game feeding has been limited entirely to Buffalo and a total of 50 tons of hay was fed at the Buffalo Ranch during the month.

Sickness and Medical Attention

Dr. J. M. Wolfe, National Park Service physician, reports 21 resident calls and 31 office calls for the month.

School

The school report for the month of January is attached hereto.

Religious Services

Church services were held in the Canteen every Thursday evening by the Rev. Geo. F. Kochler, of the English Lutheran Church of Livingston, Mont.

The Rev. W. Friend Day of Enigrant, Montana, of the Episcopal Church, held services on the evening of January 13 and the morning of January 27.

IX. RECEIPTS AND REMITTANCES.

Certified Check #2313, dated January 26, 1924, drawn by H. W. Child on the National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to The Director, National Park Service, amount.....	8.20
Certified Check #1588, dated January 25, 1924, drawn by H. W. Child on the National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to The Director, National Park Service, amount.....	153.77
Certified Check #1582, dated January 12, 1924, drawn by Yellowstone Park Transportation Company to The Director, National Park Service, amount..	100.00
Postal Money Order #54483, dated January 7, 1924, drawn by the Postmaster at Yellowstone Park, on the Postmaster at Washington, D.C., amount.....	3.15
Total	<hr/> \$ 264.12

Cordially yours,

LEROY HILL,
Acting Superintendent.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.
AHM